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HEALTH
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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Transportation and Infrastructure Member Day Testimony April 18, 2023

Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on my transportation and infrastructure priorities to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Ports and Implementation of the Water Resources Development Act

My district includes the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest port by container volume in the country. It's an economic engine for my district and the greater Los Angeles area, and imports goods for American businesses and consumers throughout the country.

In the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, billions of dollars in new funding were unlocked for donor ports like the Port of Los Angeles, which contribute far more to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund than they receive back. However, the recent 2023 work plan of the U.S. Army Corps (*core*) of Engineers does not reflect these policy changes. It's important for the committee to provide oversight and get answers to ensure the Corps (*core*) implements the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 in line with Congressional intent.

These port infrastructure and maintenance funds are important to ensure we have a strong supply chain without backlogs from outdated infrastructure.

Zero-Emissions Shipping Fund

As we work to maintain strong infrastructure for our ports, it's critical that the committee also prioritize air quality and public health for port communities. While Congress has made significant investments to address emissions from cargo equipment and trucks, rising shipping emissions are a major challenge.

We need further research and innovation to develop zero-emission ships that will improve air quality and reduce climate pollution. I encourage the committee to work to create a Zero-Emission Vessel Innovation Fund within the Maritime Administration to provide \$500 million in financing for pilot projects, demonstration projects, and research of zero-emission marine vessels and retrofitting of existing vessels.

Implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Justice40

As the Department of Transportation implements the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this committee will play an important oversight role to ensure the funds reach communities that have faced decades of underinvestment and air pollution. This is part of the Biden administration's Justice40 Initiative.

Some specific examples of programs that need to reach communities of color and disadvantaged communities like those in my district are:

- Capital Investment Grants to expand public transit, including the planned West Santa Ana light rail line, which would connect communities in Southeastern LA County with Downtown Los Angeles;
- The Low-No Bus Program to support zero-emission buses. Both Long Beach and Los Angeles have goals for 100% zero-emission transit buses by 2030.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, which needs to include funding for multi-family homes and shared vehicles for non-car owners at public housing.

FAA Reauthorization

Finally, as the committee works on the FAA Reauthorization bill, I want to highlight a few priorities of our hardworking flight attendants and transport workers that I share. These include:

- The *Cabin Air Safety Act* by Representative Garamendi to protect pilots, flight attendants, and passengers from toxic cabin air;
- The *Protection from Abusive Passengers Act* by Representative Eric Swalwell to hold passengers accountable if they assault a crewmember or passenger; and
- The *Global Aircraft Maintenance Safety Improvement Act* by Representatives Molinaro and Brownley to ensure one standard of safety and security applies to our aircraft maintenance, regardless of where it is repaired.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities. I look forward to working with the Committee this Congress to advance them forward.